(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to protect environment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) propose to set up amine and a mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong, Mawthabah in the West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya State, after obtaining all necessary clearances.

(c) UCIL shall take all necessary measures for environmental protection and obtain Environmental Clearance as per procedure laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The mining and milling activities will be reviewed and monitored by various statutory agencies like Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, State Pollution Control Board, and Directorate General of Mines Safety. There will not be any discernible effect on environment due to proposed mining and milling activities of UCIL, in view of various mitigating steps which will be taken under an Environment Management Plan.

Shortage of Uranium Deposits

3038. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps which Government are considering to overcome the acute shortage of uranium deposit in the country;

(b) whether it is high time to vigorously make efforts to explore new uranium deposits in the country which US may exploit through nuclear deal to push its long standing non-proliferation agenda; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD), a unit under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has identified 1,07,268 tonnes of in-situ uranium resources

(U_3O_8). AMD has intensified uranium exploration activities in potential areas by way of increased inputs in Airborne and Ground Geophysical surveys, detailed surveys and drilling. As a result of these efforts, it is envisaged the situation will progressively improve in the XI Plan.

Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking under the DAE besides operating four mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih, has taken up development of three new mines at Banduhurang, Bagjata and Mohuldih and is setting up a Processing Plant at Turamdih in Singhbhum (East) Jharkhand. Pre-project activities have been started for taking up projects at Tummalapalle and Lambapur-Peddagattu in Andhra Pradesh, Mawthabah in Meghalaya and Gogi in Karnataka.

Uranium Exploration

3039. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are stepping up the Uranium exploration and mining; and

(b) if so, whether foreign private companies are being delegated to do this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, some of the activities may be outsourced to them.

Enhancement of Nuclear Power Generation

3040. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to enhance power generation in the country through nuclear power;

(b) how far India stand *vis-a-vis* other Asian countries as far as total power generation in the nuclear field is concerned;